

## The New Duxbury Free Library Officially Opens Its Doors

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Ebullient and joyful are the best words to describe the people and the atmosphere this past Sunday when the Duxbury Free Library opened its doors to the public.

At 1 pm the official opening ceremony began with music from the Duxbury High School Marching Band and an introduction by Jane Bradley, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees. Bradley called the day "one of the most glorious days in Duxbury" as she announced the re-dedication of the new \$6.3 million Duxbury Free Library at 77 Alden Street.

Bradley thanked all who worked to make the new library a reality, including project manager Deborah Bornheimer, the board of library trustees, library director Joanne Lamothe, the state for its construction grant of \$2.1 million and the 746 residents who voted to spend \$3 million for the library at the 1995 annual town meeting.

Selectmen Chairman Margaret Kearney also spoke at

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Marianne Hanigan, a 1921 graduate of Partridge Academy and teacher at Tarkiln School with Jane Bradley, Chairman of the Library Trustees at Sunday's library dedication ceremonies.

*Photo by Fran Nichols*

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the ceremony. She said the building "reminds us of our heritage."

"Thirty-six years ago, in 1961, I graduated with the last high school class that came out of this building," Kearney said. "Back then, I couldn't wait to get out of the building. Now I can't wait to get back in."

Those who attended the public open house were amazed by the transformation of the town's first high school, the Upper Alden School built in 1927, into a multi-million dollar library ready for the 21st century.

"I think it's absolutely beautiful," said Kearney of the renovated brick building off Alden St. and St. George St. "I'm overwhelmed."

"It is even more beautiful than we thought it would be," Bradley said. She heaped praise on the project manager. "We were right on time and right on budget, and with Debbie Bornheimer at the helm we never had any doubts that we were going to be able to pull it off."

"We are delighted," she added. "We think it's a wonderful facility. We want everyone to come and feel welcome. There's so much more here."

The inside of the new library has been decorated in cream-colored paint with green trim and warm, burnished oak. There are oak study carrels, book stacks and tables and chairs. Most of the furniture and lamps are of a linear style that is reminiscent of the designs of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. There are also tasteful, upholstered, "comfy-looking" chairs, which complement the colors of the rooms and carpeting. All the furniture invites patrons to read or study and enjoy their new library.

The library has three levels and over 33,000 square feet of space, more than triple that of the old one. The first floor draws people immediately into the library's media area, which contains the audio-visual material, such as compact discs, books-on-tape and videos, as well as new books. This area flows into the lovely Cutler Reading Room, filled with dozens of newspapers and periodicals and comfortable chairs in which to read them. This room was donated by *Duxbury Clipper* publisher John Cutler in memory of his late wife Roberta Sumner Cutler.

Also on the first floor, is the new Helen Bumpus art gallery, adult fiction books, the circulation desk and the enlarged children's library.

The children's library takes up almost half of the first floor and is separated into two rooms. One is for very young children, complete with small chairs and tables and reading books. The other room is for older children's books and materials. Also included in the children's wing

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of the library is a children's program room, decorated with chairs, tables, and carpeting in primary colors and a fun design.

On the way up the stairs to the 2nd level there is a huge area of wall that lists the names of over 400 people who gave \$1,000 or more to the new library. It is called the Millennium Club. The names are written in modern gold script on a dark background, reminiscent of a chalkboard, and the design is a reminder of the building's previous life as a school.

On the 2nd level of the new library it seems as if there are windows everywhere offering wonderful views of the Duxbury Elementary School, Duxbury Middle School and the town playing fields - the "campus" as it is sometimes called. Here are reference materials, non-fiction, and a separate young adult section, which is filled with books and 2 small study rooms with tables and 4 chairs in each.

In addition, the 2nd floor has the Duxbury Room, which houses archival materials on the history of the town and of New England. A plaque outside this room says it is "dedicated to the preservation of Duxbury's rich heritage."

There are also tables and chairs and study carrels scattered throughout the second floor. These have electric outlets in them so people can bring their laptop computers and plug them in.

Throughout the entire library, there are many computer terminals. Some of these are used as electronic card catalogs and other are used as personal computers and are hooked to the Internet.

The lower level of the new library is definitely not like a basement. It has many windows and its own entrance to the back parking area. It contains a pristine, 120-seat auditorium with large viewing screen, a smaller program room and, some say best of all, a petite cafe with 5 small tables and a stack of periodicals. French Memories, the local bakery, will serve croissants, donuts, bagels, pastries, breads, sandwiches, coffee and teas in this area after the first of the year. The cafe will be open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:30 p.m.

The library is open for business this week from 10 am to 8 pm Monday through Thursday. On Fridays and Saturdays, it's open from 10-5 and on Sundays from 1-5. It is handicapped accessible.

As for the original library building, its future uses are still up in the air. It dates from 1909 and was given to the town by the Wright family earlier this century. Under terms of this gift, the building is supposed to be used for library-related functions or it could revert to the Wright family. One proposed use is for a professional development center for Duxbury teachers and school staff.

## New Town Library Dedicated



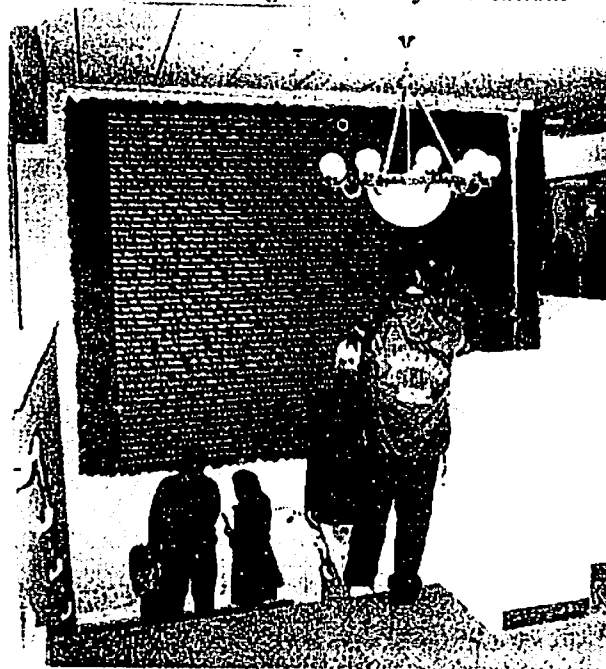
The DHS band plays at the opening of new library.



Rep. Fran Marini, Selectman Friend Weiler and Police Chief Charles Mazzone applaud during the library dedication.



Jane Bradley, (far right) Chairman of the Library Trustees speaks as trustees (l-r): Jack Hill, Lynne Walsh, John Sinclair, Library Director Joanne Lamothe, Corinne Woodworth and Chris Flanagan look on.



Visitors view the mural of names of donors to the new Duxbury Free Library.



*Photos By Fran Nichols*

Library Director Joanne Lamothe welcomes a large crowd during the dedication of the library.



Library Trustees John Sinclair and Corinne Woodworth chat in the new library which opened its doors on Nov. 13.



Deputy Fire Chief Wayne Sjostedt raised the flag in front of the new Duxbury Free Library as the DHS band played the National Anthem.



Sisters Jacqueline and Katelyn Messier try out the new chairs in the children's room.



Capital Campaign Committee member Deborah Bornheimer and Committee Chairman Roger Smith are all smiles.



Chairman of the Duxbury Board of Selectmen Margaret Kearney speaks during the library dedication festivities.

# Weekend Ceremonies



David and Josh Cutler peer out from behind Mary Knight and Rolando DeAguiar at the Millennium Wall.



Viewing the Thomas Lanman Trustees Room are his sister Trudy Lanman, daughter, Sandy Anderson, and wife, Polly. The room was given by Mr. and Mrs. Lanman.



Jane Bradley, Chairman of Library Trustees, and Deborah Bornheimer, Library Project manager, were the forces behind the successful culmination of the library project, a 10-year effort.



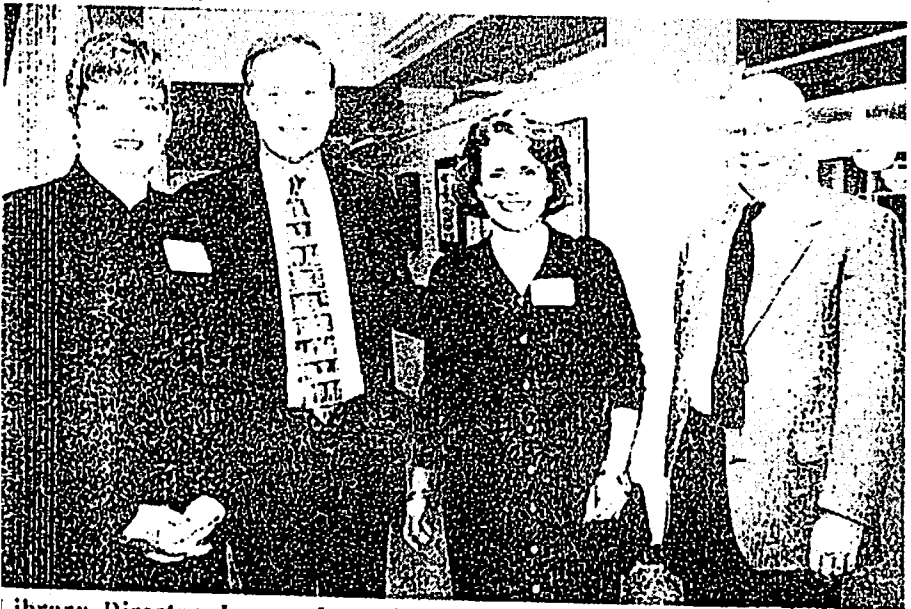
Millennium chairman Judy Dineen announces the opening of the Millennium Wall with husband Judge Jim Dineen



Barbara Kiley, festivities chairman and volunteer Nancy Dobbins



Linda VonIderstein, Lynne DeHart and Janice Brothers scan the donor wall for names.



Library Director Joanne Lamothe with Roger Smith, Capitol Campaign Chairman, Anne Smith and trustee Chris Flanagan.

Millenium donors Kit Clapp and Stanley Merry, for whom the Meeting Room is named, were welcomed guests at Saturday's library opening ceremony.

*Photos by*

*Deni Johnson*



The Lougee family: Skip, Jane, Wheble, Joan Lougee, Susan Thanas and Chris Merry, prepare to leave.